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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8280
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9411
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8747
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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

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USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: VENEZUELA, CHAVEZ '
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

Chavez ' Police State

Center-right O Estado de S.Paulo (6/9) states: "Hugo Chavez has enacted a national security law which...if fully carried out...will turn Venezuela...into a nation of fearful snitches.... It establishes that...everyone and everything constitute a means of support to intelligence and counter-intelligence activities. Those who do not cooperate will be committing a crime.... The law is purposefully written in a vague manner to allow any working journalist to be sent to jail under accusation of spying or any other charge the authorities see fit.... It puts an end to due process of law.... The minister...in charge of running the political police said it was written to fight 'U.S. interference.'... The enactment of this law is one more stage in the process of turning Venezuela into a totalitarian State. It is an outright violation of the OAS' Democratic Charter. Its adoption makes Venezuela irrecoverably incompatible with the principles of Mercosul as established in its Democracy Clause."
White